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USSR COAL INDUSTRY SHOWS GENERAL IMPROVEMENT
DESPITE LAGS IN SPOTS

NEW MINING METHOD TO STEP UP COAL PRODUCTION -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 18 Jan 52

The Minister of the Coal Industry has worked out a number of measures for the radical improvement of coal mining. These include a provision for the transition to the so-called retreating method of mining by which coal extraction is started at the limits of the mine field and the seam is worked back to the mine shaft. The new system offers wide possibilities for the better utilization of new techniques, further increase in coal output, a rise in labor productivity, and a drop in production costs of coal. More extensive mechanization and automatization of labor-consuming processes are also contemplated.

In 1952, a great amount of development work must be completed in Donbass mines to make them ready for conversion to the retreating system of mining. Miners must accelerate their speed in cutting passages considerably. In 4 years the new system of removing coal will be introduced at half the faces and sections of the Stalinugol' Trust. This will raise the coal output to 53 percent above the 1951 output.

COAL HAULAGE IMPROVES IN STALINUGOL' COMBINE -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 28 Feb 52

Work on the reorganization of underground transport is under way in the Stalinugol' Combine and, in many mines, coal haulage by mine car is being replaced by conveyer haulage. The first large conveyer line, already in operation in the Petrovo-Lidiyevka Mine, and consisting of ten powerful conveyers with a total length of more than 1,000 meters, delivers the coal directly to the mine shaft where it reaches the surface by means of skip hoists. The flow of coal has more than doubled since the conveyers were put into operation. New conveyer lines are being constructed in 12 more mines of the combine.

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DONBASS COAL TRUST LAGS -- Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 1 Mar 52

In 1951, the Krasnodonugol' Trust failed to fulfill the state plan for both the quantity and the quality of its output and owed the country dozens of trainloads of coking coal. In January the trust did fulfill the plan, but in the second half of February the work deteriorated again and the trust failed to deliver hundreds of tons of coal to the country. Since the beginning of 1952, only half of the mines and mine administrations of the trust have been fulfilling the plan.

A total of 22 faces have been converted to the cycle work schedule, but a large part of them are not fulfilling the cycle and output plan.

AKHALTSIKHE COAL INDUSTRY IMPROVES -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 22 Feb 52

Akhaltzikhe is an old coal region, but for years coal mining was carried out here only to satisfy local requirements. In postwar years the industrial importance of the region has grown greatly, and the Akhaltzikhe Mine Administration has entered the system of the Gruzugol' Combine.

At the beginning of 1952, an increase in the Akhaltzikhe coal output was noted. Mine No 2, which lagged for a long time, has been fulfilling or exceeding its daily quota since January 1952. Metal props have been installed in coal bed haulage drifts, coal transport in the crosscuts has been mechanized, and scraper conveyers are in wide use. Expenditures have been lessened and production costs of coal reduced. Mine No 2 fulfilled the January plan 143 percent and is achieving even better results in February.

ACHIEVEMENTS, DEFECTS, REQUIREMENTS OF MOSCOW BASIN -- Moskovskaya Pravda, 11 Mar 52

The Moskvougol' Combine mined coal in excess of the 150,000 tons above plan which it had pledged for 1951.

In Stalinogorsk Mine No 22 alone more than 400 workers have drawn up plans for increasing labor productivity. A competition has also started in many mines to reach the mines' planned productive capacity ahead of schedule. In the fourth quarter 1951, workers of Mine No 35 considerably exceeded the mine's planned capacity for coal output. More than 50 mines of the basin have achieved the same results.

Enterprises of the combine have done extensive work in recent years on automatizing the control of machines. At almost all loading points mine cars are removed into position by car feeders, designed by local engineers. The majority of mining machines, particularly conveyers, have been converted to remote control.

In 1951, Donbass combines arrived in a number of mines of the basin. This is not a bad machine, but it far from suited to the conditions of the Moscow coal basin. Three years ago Moscow basin engineers proposed a new design for the combine, and later the ministry commissioned Giprouglemash to work out the design. Two years have passed and Giprouglemash has not yet carried out this task.

The Moscow basin urgently needs a machine for carrying out drainage work in its mines. It also needs an improved design for mine props. The question has repeatedly been raised of creating an affiliate of Giprouglemash for the Moscow basin, to develop new machines especially for the Moscow basin coal mines, but with no results as yet.

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The Moscow basin also has grievances against other ministries with which it has connections, in particular, the Ministry of Transportation, since railroad workers supply the basin inadequately with empty mine cars.

In addition to definite successes in the work of enterprises of the Moscow basin, there are also many defects. A number of mines are not fulfilling the coal output plans and are utilizing mining techniques badly. Some faces converted to the cycle work schedule are not keeping to the established cycle norm.

Miners of the Moscow basin have pledged to mine 100,000 tons of coal above plan in 1952 and to deliver not less than 5 million rubles in above-plan accumulations.

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